

National Heritage Areas Alliance Update

ANHA

2008 is Busy Year on the Hill for National Heritage Area Legislation

With Congress on its August recess, action in Washington has come to a temporary halt. The traditional late summer pause provides opportunity to reflect on the year's milestones and to look ahead to the remaining months of the legislative session.

In April of this year, Congress passed and President Bush signed P.L. 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008. This bill contained many important provisions, including designation of three new National Heritage Areas - the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area in central Illinois, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, a corridor in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area in western New York. These new additions bring the total number of National Heritage Areas to forty. Two new feasibility studies were also authorized, one in the Columbia-Pacific region in Oregon and Washington, the other in Kentucky with a focus on sites related to Abraham Lincoln.

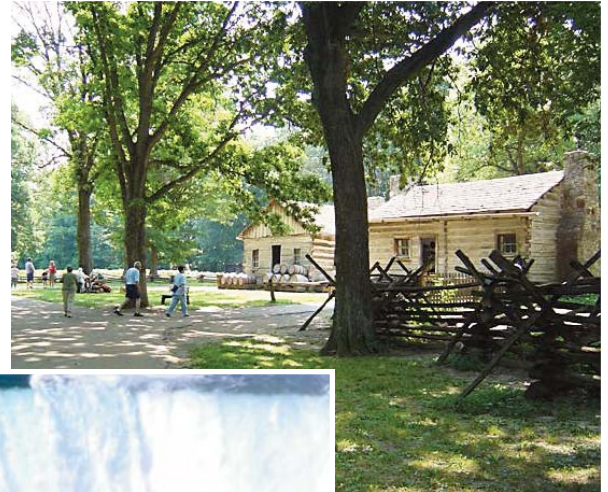
P.L. 110-229 contained other important sections related to National Heritage Areas, including authorization of additional appropriations for 9 National Heritage Areas designated in 1996 and language directing the Secretary of the Interior to undertake an evaluation process for these same Areas. Additionally, P.L. 110-229 added important labor-history related sites to the National Coal Heritage Area in West Virginia and Butler County in Pennsylvania to the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

There are still many National Heritage Area bills pending in Congress. One significant piece of legislation is Senate Bill 3213, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008. Included in this bill is language, based largely on earlier legislation introduced by the late Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming, which outlines a framework for the National Heritage Area program. If enacted, S. 3213 would also establish nine

new National Heritage Areas, including four areas west of the Mississippi River. In total, there are currently four regions with feasibility study legislation pending and 13 regions with National Heritage Area designation bills pending.

Legislative Update

Introduced on July 30, **HR 6678 (Pomeroy, D-ND)** a bill to establish the Northern Plains National Heritage Area in the State of North Dakota.



Above: New Salem Historic Site in the newly designated Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area



Left: View of Niagara Falls in the newly designated Niagara Falls National Heritage Area



View of Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania, one of nine areas designated in a 1996 omnibus bill

News from the Heritage Areas

Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Presents Seventh Annual Trails & Sails Weekend

The 7th Annual Trails and Sails Weekend: A Weekend to GO! Experience Essex Heritage will take place from September 26 to September 28, 2008.

Designed to showcase the unique array of historic, cultural, and natural resources within the Essex National Heritage Area, the weekend includes more than 200 free events spread out over 135 locations. Several new visitor opportunities are available this year, including ArtsFest Merrimack Valley, a celebration of the diversity of art and culture along the Merrimack River corridor and "A Taste of Trails and Sails," a food tasting highlighting locally-made products. To learn more visit www.trailsandsails.org or call (978) 740-0444.



South Carolina National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) Celebrates Ties to Barbados

Although separated by more than 2,000 miles of ocean, history ties the people of South Carolina and Barbados together. The connection between the two cultures dates back to the 1670s, when a boat carrying English planters and enslaved people from Barbados landed at what is now Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site in South Carolina. In



the more than three centuries since, the connection between the two lands has evolved, with linkages evident in the art, food, architecture, language, and African heritage of both places.

The newest bridge uniting South Carolina and Barbados is a unique project called "The Connection." Sponsored jointly by the SCNHC and the Barbados Ministry of Tourism, the Connection features more than 70 pieces of art from the two locales as well as an interpretive exhibit highlighting continued historical and cultural ties. On tour since December 2007, "The Connection" marks one of the first times that a National Heritage Area has partnered with another country on a project of this scale. In a further effort to cement "The

Connection," citizens from South Carolina will travel to Barbados this October. The trip will include tours, speakers, and traveling workshops and is open to the public. Those interested in learning more about the journey as well as logistics and cost can visit <http://www.sc-heritagecorridor.org/>.

Oil Region National Heritage Area Kicks off "Oil 150" and Celebrates Oil Heritage Month

On August 1, elected officials, volunteers, and local residents gathered at the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, PA to announce the recent introduction and passage of resolutions recognizing the kick-off of "Oil 150" and "Oil Heritage Month." "Oil 150" is a 17-month celebration of the 1859 birth of the petroleum



**Celebrating the Story—
Progress from Petroleum**

highlight the early history of oil as well as the industry's progression over the past 150 years. For an event schedule and more information, visit www.oil150.com.

Speaking on behalf of US Congressman John Peterson, Barbara Ives told attendees that a federal resolution, highlighting the importance of the petroleum industry and its broad geographical reach, was currently under consideration in the United States Congress. The bill also asks the President to issue a proclamation in support of the Sesquicentennial of Oil. On the state level, Senators Mary Jo White and Robert Robbins served as key sponsors for Pennsylvania Senate Resolution #343, which designated August as "Oil Heritage Month" across the Commonwealth. Representatives Scott Hutchinson and Brad Roae introduced Pennsylvania House Resolution #827, which supports the overall "Oil 150" endeavor and also recognizes August as "Oil Heritage Month." Locally, Venango County Commissioner Troy Wood delivered a framed resolution in support of "Oil 150 – Progress from Petroleum" and declared "Oil Heritage Month" for August, 2008 and August, 2009. Similarly, Crawford County Commissioners described the resolution they adopted in July to designate "Oil Heritage Month" for August, 2008 and August, 2009.

Smart Growth Conference Highlights Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area

Citizens, business and community leaders, government officials, realtors, planners and others converged at the Saenger Theatre in Biloxi on May 5-6 for the ninth annual Coastal Development Strategies (Smart Growth) Conference. About 500 attended the two-day event, hosted by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and partner, the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, learning and sharing ideas, experiences and challenges for sustainable development across the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Area.

U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker spoke on the first day of the conference, focusing on the importance of heritage preservation as the Mississippi Gulf Coast continues to grow its economy. National author and historian Dr. Douglas Brinkley talked about cultural differences in responding and rebounding from Hurricane Katrina. Other topics included Preserve America—Protecting and Sharing Community

Heritage; the World of Insurance Strategies; Powering Renewal: Long Term Energy Strategies for Rebuilding Gulf Coast Communities with Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency; and Land Use for Smart Growth Communities.

Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant addressed the audience on the second day of the event, discussing the importance of community involvement in the future plans for growth and development along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The second day also introduced conference attendees to the archaeological findings of University of Southern Mississippi's Drs. Marie Danforth and Amy Young. The two professors and their students have been conducting extensive studies on the skeletal remains and artifacts found at the Moran site in Biloxi. Dubbed the "Jamestown of the Gulf Coast," the site may be one of the oldest French colonial cemeteries in North America.



Dr. Amy Young discussed the "Jamestown of the Gulf Coast" at Coastal Development Strategies Conference

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Rivers of Steel Installs New River Landing Kiosk

Visitors and residents now have a new way to experience the waterfront in Kittanning, Pennsylvania. In June, Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area unveiled an innovative river landing kiosk that includes a map of historic landmarks and directions to nearby amenities such as restaurants, marinas, and ATMs. Interpretive panels, capturing the unique character and history of the community, are also on display.

The first of its kind kiosk will serve as a model for signage soon to be available to other communities within the National Heritage Area's borders. The project recognizes the changing relationship between former industrial communities and their waterways.



Signage along the Kittanning Waterfront

Where once steel mills, foundries, and coal tipples lined southern Pennsylvania's rivers, today towns like Kittanning are reinventing their waterfronts as recreation destinations and gathering spots. "Kittanning's Riverfront Park is developing a new economy for this former industrial community – tourism," said Augie Carlino, President and CEO, Rivers of Steel National Area. "These kiosks attract visitors, and provide information about the town's history and other attractions, amenities and businesses... Rivers of Steel's signage program proves a dual benefit to communities: access to a high-quality, professional, graphic standards package that they can adapt to their community's unique attractions and amenities; and, access to grant funding to help pay for the production and installation of the kiosks." Learn more about Rivers of Steel at www.riversofsteel.com.

Ohio and Erie Canalway Coalition Hosts Successful Cargill Canoe Adventure

On Saturday, July 12th, the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition welcomed close to 100 participants to the Cargill Canoe Adventure. Starting bright and early at 7:45am, trolleys, provided by the City of Akron, began shuttling passengers to Nesmith Lake. Participants paddled in canoes rented from two partners, Canal Fulton



Photo Credit: Ken Robinson

Paddlers enjoy the Ohio and Erie Canalway

Canoe Livery and Trailhead Canoe Livery. An Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition employee guided each group of about ten to fifteen canoes from start to finish, allowing participants to relax and take time to learn more about the history of the region and the future of the Canalway. The six mile journey traveled through a range of scenery, from residential to picturesque to industrial and concluded with a hearty lunch. The success of the event would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors, including Cargill, Water Matters, ComDoc, Inc., Roach-Reid Office Systems, H.R. Gray, Lek Computer Systems, Canoe Wenonah, and the City of Akron.

2008 Great Hudson River Paddle



The Eighth Annual Great Hudson River Paddle finished up its 11-day run in New York City on Sunday, July 13th. The 144- mile journey from Albany to Manhattan was a resounding success

again this year, with paddlers stopping at several designated heritage sites along the way. Participants had the option of taking part in all 11-days of activities or signing up for shorter portions of the trip. For more information, visit <http://www.hudsonrivervalley.com>.

Freedom's Frontier Management Planning Process Uses Technology for Public Input

To help set priorities, capture opinions and offer opportunities to comment on heritage area documents, Freedom's Frontier



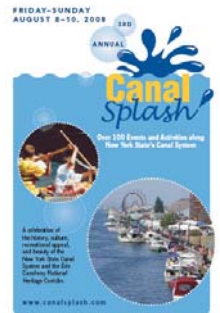
National Heritage Area (FFNHA) uses its website – www.freedomfrontier.org – and other electronic tools to engage residents and key stakeholders. Half-way into the planning process, the FFNHA website boasts a dedicated

"Management Plan" section with documents posted for review and response. To encourage visitors to download information and provide feedback for future discussion, the site highlights time-sensitive documents. The site also links users to electronic surveys that relate to timely planning issues. "For a region spanning two states and 41-counties, we needed a timely and cost-effective way to engage our 2.3 million residents in the management planning process," says Judy Billings, FFNHA's Executive Director. "Our consulting team enhanced our website and regularly uses Survey Monkey to request input on specific topics, like the Statement of National Significance."

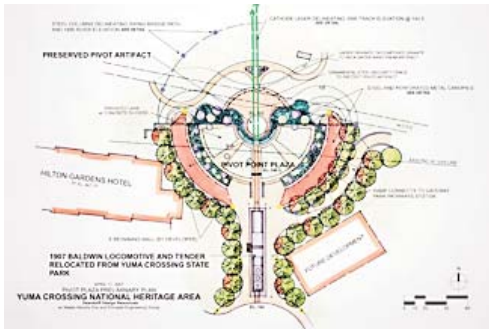
Further, the website serves as a vehicle to share information from monthly Partnership Team meetings. Well-attended (regularly drawing up to 100 attendees), these meetings often focus on discussion topics used in the management planning process. As a story-based heritage area, the website also offers visitors the opportunity to share information about sites, events, landscapes, and activities important to the region and its mission. To date, the Management Planning Process has created a draft vision, mission, value statements, Statement of National Significance and a preliminary inventory of resources. The process continues through February. For more information, contact Judy Billings at 785-856-5301 or jbillings@freedomfrontier.org

Canal Splash! a Tribute to Partnerships

More than 100 events celebrating the history, culture, recreational appeal, and beauty of the New York State Canal System and Erie Canalway Trail took place during Canal Splash!, a weekend long, multi-location celebration held on August 8-10. Canal Splash! is the New York State Canal Corporation's statewide signature event, presented in partnership with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. An estimated 35,000 people participated in programs including nature and history walks, museum and gallery exhibits, kayak and canoe outings, musical performances, and boat tours. "Partnerships are key to Canal Splash's success, as local organizations and businesses plan all the events and activities and we provide organizational and marketing support," said Beth



Sciameca, executive director for the Erie Canalway. "By working together to celebrate the canal system, we can do so much more than any one organization can do alone."



The plan for Pivot Point

Pivot Point Development Project Taking Off in Yuma

Exciting changes are evident in downtown Yuma, Arizona. Construction is underway on a new development, called "Pivot Point." Located within the Yuma Crossing National Historic Landmark, the project is following historic design guidelines crafted by the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area in collaboration with the Arizona SHPO, the National Park Service, the City of Yuma, the private sector developer and the local Historic Design Review Commission (CLG). A key part of the construction, a new Conference Center, is due to open in November 2008, with a hotel following in early 2009. The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area is also building an interpretive overlook which will celebrate the river, rail, and road crossings of Yuma. You can follow progress on the project through a webcam at

<http://oxblue.com/pro/open/yumapivotpoint>

Or learn more at www.yumaheritage.com

It's Extreme! On the Journey Through Hallowed Ground

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area has been a buzz this summer with students participating in the two-week Extreme Journey Summer Camp, presented by the JTHG Partnership and local school systems. This year, the program grew to include Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Originally designed for middle school, the camp is now available nationally to high school students, through a partnership between the Journey and the University of Virginia Summer Enrichment Program.

The award-winning program combines cutting-

edge technology with hands-on lessons in American heritage and leadership, putting students into the boots of our leaders while they hike, bike and paddle with historians from Gettysburg National Military Park to James Monroe's Ash Lawn-Highland. Extreme campers use video iPods and digital cameras to chronicle their experience and create documentary-style "vodcasts," which have been premiered at special closing events in each county. The National Trust for Historic Preservation's 2008 National Preservation Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma also selected The Extreme camp for an education session on



Credit: Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership

Extreme Campers enjoy summer on the Journey Through Hallowed Ground

taught in school," said Christian Valli, of the Extreme camp in Adams County, Pennsylvania. "It was really fun to learn about all these different things I learned in my classes, but it extended it even further," said D'Marco McElhinney, a rising sixth-grader from Loudoun County, Virginia. To learn more about the camps and other upcoming programs and events, visit www.hallowedground.org.

Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area Featured on KJZZ Television in Utah



Credit: Photography by Laurie A blacksmith practices his traditional craft in the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area

The first installments of an exciting new series of feature stories highlighting the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) will soon hit the airwaves on KJZZ television. "The television series will give viewers a glimpse into the small town lifestyle, characters along the

roadway and historic vignettes," said series produced James Nelson. "These stories offer the general public an excellent opportunity to see and hear a significant piece of history right here in Utah." Cowboys, wood carvers, rug makers, painters, sculptors, musicians, quilters and story tellers are just a few of the guests scheduled for the story series, which will also feature live guest appearances.

National Aviation Heritage Area Participates in World's Largest Airshow

In late July, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance (NAHA) participated in the 60th Farnborough International Airshow (FIA). Held in Farnborough, England, the event is the world's largest air show. As part of the International Pioneers of Flight Pavillion, NAHA representatives, including Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, had the opportunity to share news of the unique aviation heritage of the Dayton, Ohio region. "It is an absolute honor to have another country invite us and to recognize the importance of the Wright brothers. This may be a first – for multiple aviation pioneers to be celebrated together under one roof. People are walking away talking about it," said Wright Lane.

Designed with the help of living ancestors of great aviation pioneers, the Pioneers of Flight Pavilion told the story of aviation's earliest days. It featured four accurate, full-scale replicas of early 20th century aircraft, including the 1911 Wright B Flyer, built by volunteers from Dayton. In addition to the Wright B Flyer, NAHA also presented a flight simulator, allowing visitors to virtually "fly" a Wright brother's airplane over the Huffman Prairie Flying Field.



National Aviation Heritage Area exhibit at Farnborough International Airshow

Assistance/Awards

NEH Division of Public Programs Awards

The Division of Public Programs at the U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities funds humanities projects intended for broad public audiences at museums, libraries, historic sites and other historical and cultural organizations. Submit planning and implementation grant applications at two annual deadlines: August 27, 2008 and January 21, 2009. New application guidelines are now posted on the NEH Web site at www.neh.gov. Grants support interpretive exhibitions, reading or film discussion series, historic site interpretation, lecture series and symposia, and digital projects. NEH especially encourages projects that offer multiple formats and make creative use of new technology to deliver humanities content.

Search for Funding Opportunities at the Partnership Resource Center

The Partnership Resource Center provides online resources and



guidance to support vibrant partnerships and effective collaboration for the nation's forests, grasslands, and other special places. The website is a joint project of the National Forest Foundation and the US Forest Service. The address is www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/

Institute of Museum and Library Services and Bank of America Foundation Announce American Heritage Preservation Program

The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation have announced the 2009 guidelines for the American Heritage

Preservation Program.

This new public-private partnership will fund the preservation of

endangered and fragile art works, rare books, scientific specimens, and historical documents (photographs, maps, deeds, etc.) held in small and medium-sized museums, archives, and libraries. These artifacts can be of diverse origin, but should have significance to the

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Conferences, Workshops and Events

National Geographic, 5 US Agencies Sign Agreement to Partner on Geotourism Initiatives

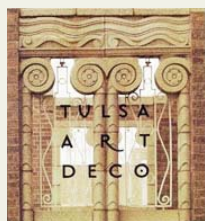


With the goal of better preserving and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the nation's public lands and waters, five U.S. government agencies joined the National Geographic Society in a ceremony at Society headquarters, unveiling a framework to formally adopt the principles of geotourism. Signatories to the MOU included senior leaders of National Geographic, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and their agencies, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a first step to promote geotourism as a collaborative approach among governmental agencies and private partners. Pioneered by National Geographic since 2002, geotourism refers to tourism that helps sustain or enhance the geographical character of a place — its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well-being of its residents. "This agreement will enhance both the environment and the local economies, better preserving America's diverse recreational and scenic assets — a source of immense national pride," said Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, who signed the agreement. "Geotourism showcases what is authentic and unique and defines us. It is the right concept to protect our public lands for future generations."

HomeTown YouthForce Conference

A new learning opportunity for communities interested in engaging and attracting youth and young people will be introduced this fall in a three-day academy - "HomeTown YouthForce: Engaging the Entrepreneurial Generation."

HomeTown YouthForce will focus on how to engage entrepreneurial youth in community building while they are growing up and how to attract young people back home after they've left for other opportunities. The academy will underscore the linkages among entrepreneurship, education, leadership development and community engagement with youth in a systems approach to community and economic development. Developed by the Heartland Center and the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, the gathering will take place November 17-19, 2008, at the nationally known Lied Lodge and Conference Center in Nebraska City, Nebraska. For more information on this new academy, go to www.heartlandcenter.info



2008 National Preservation Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma

The deadline to register online for the National Trust's Annual National Preservation Conference is October 20, 2008. If interested, visit www.PreservationNation.org for more information on what to expect in Tulsa.

For more information on heritage areas, please visit our websites.

The Alliance Update is a partnership project of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and the National Park Service National Heritage Areas Program.

Send your heritage area events and news to the editor by the 18th of the month for inclusion in the following month's bulletin.

Please forward this bulletin to others who may be interested, and encourage them to join our e-bulletin address list.

- Reach the editor at Eleanor_Mahoney@contractor.nps.gov
- To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to the editor.

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Assistance/Awards

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community. All eligible institutions may apply for projects in the following areas: treatment of library, museum, and archival collections; improvement of collections storage; and environmental improvement of collections. Awards are for up to \$3,000 each and the deadline is September 15. For complete program information and eligibility guidelines visit the IMLS Web site at www.imls.gov

Apply for National Trust's Dozen Distinctive Destinations

Since 2000, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has selected 12 vacation destinations across the United States that offer an authentic visitor experience by combining dynamic downtowns, cultural diversity, attractive architecture, cultural landscapes and a strong commitment to historic preservation and revitalization. To date, there have been 108 Distinctive Destinations located in 42 states throughout the country. In each community, residents have taken action to protect their town's character and sense of place. The destinations selected in 2008 ranged from a French colonial village along the banks of the Mississippi River to a small Texas town that served as a gateway to the western frontier. Support your city in becoming a 2009 Dozen Distinctive Destination, learn more at www.preservationnation.org



National Trust Preservation Funds

National Trust Preservation Funds provide two types of assistance to nonprofit organizations and public agencies: 1) matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts, and 2) intervention funds for preservation emergencies. Matching grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as to provide preservation education activities to educate the public. Feel free to email Brent_Leggs@nthp.org to discuss your project.

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

New Jersey's landscape, people and natural resources directly affected the course of our nation's struggle for independence. The state's pivotal role in the founding of our country was recognized in 2006 with the designation of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. Stretching from the Palisades along the Hudson River at Fort Lee to the southern shores of the Delaware River at Red Bank Battlefield, it includes 213 cities and towns in 14 counties. Within it are the Old Barracks at Trenton, which Washington captured on December 26, 1776, Monmouth Battlefield State Park, where the largest Revolutionary War artillery battle was fought and Morristown National Historical Park where



Ford Mansion, Morristown National Historical Park



Washington Crossing State Park

Washington and the Continental Army endured two of their three winters in New Jersey.

The Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation is the coordinating organization designated by the federal government to work with heritage area residents, local and state governments and interested organizations to unify and promote New Jersey' National Heritage Area. The Association has:

- Developed "Visioning Our Heritage Area," a pilot management project in 14 towns in Morris and Somerset Counties. The project has included public meetings, GIS mapping and a historic site survey.
- Produced, with support from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the NJ Historical Commission a publication, "Crossroads of the American Revolution: A Guide to the Revolutionary War Sites in New Jersey."
- Launched a free quarterly E-newsletter in 2007 that is now distributed to over 900 subscribers.
- Co-sponsored this year's 75th Anniversary of the founding of Morristown National Historical Park and of Patriots Week in Trenton.
- Co-sponsored the Commemoration of the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and of Princeton as the nation's capitol.



Battle of Monmouth Reenactment

The Crossroads Association is working successfully with its partners to realize a thriving National Heritage Area. Together they are:

- Creating a management plan that will include public outreach.
- Updating an inventory of historic and natural resources, including proposals for protection and enhancement.
- Drafting an interpretive plan for the region's resource and stories.
- Developing a strategic business and marketing plan, with the help of the Rutgers University Business School's MBA Team Consulting Program.
- Creating a Crossroads Heritage Partnership Grants Program.

The National Heritage Area offers an unprecedented opportunity to interpret the State's rich Revolutionary War era history. It provides a network for partner organizations – from historic sites and land preservation organizations, to historical societies and educational institutions – to expand their interpretive and educational programs and to enhance their sites. Then New Jersey will offer visitors tourism experiences that offer a window into the daily lives of the colonists who lived through the "times that tried men's souls" as well as to the military maneuvers and strategies that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War. The state will become a major destination for people who want to explore how our nation began and Discover Revolutionary New Jersey.

For more information on New Jersey's National Heritage Area, visit <http://www.revolutionarynj.org>

CROSSROADS OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA